LIGHTED INCENSE BURNER

This applicant claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/446,510, filed February 10, 2003.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This invention relates to devices for use in burning incense or other aromatic materials that may also produce a visible lighting effect. The new lighted incense burner may be used to burn incense or other aromatic materials and to create an esthetic lighting effect related to the smoke of a burned incense or other aromatic material.

[0002] Devices such as lamps that may incorporate incense or other aromatic materials may have been developed to allow a light source, electric or candle, to heat the air in the lamp to be used to heat an aromatic material in a container or cup. Typically such devices incorporate one or more light bulbs connected to a power source wherein the light bulbs may be positioned below a container having an aromatic material therein. In operating the heat of the light source may be intended to evaporate the aromatic material thereby creating an aroma in the vicinity of the lamp. The light bulb may also serve to illuminate the vicinity of the lamp.

[0003] Other lighting devices or lamps may have incorporated an incense material holder or cup in an upper portion of a lampshade, as for example U.S. Patent No. 1,357,824, issued November 2, 1920. This device may allow the burning of an incense material in the cup while the light bulbs may be powered. A portion of the light from the light bulbs may radiate through an opening in a shade upwardly from the shade, but not through the cup. The light bulbs may not directly illuminate the smoke of the burning incense.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] The present invention is directed to devices having an illuminating element and an aromatic material burning element. An incense housing member may be disposed in a base member having a light member therein. The incense housing member may have a wall, a closed bottom and an open top forming a chamber. There may be an incense holder for retaining an incense element in the chamber.

[0005] These and other features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with reference to the following drawings, description and claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] Figure 1 illustrates a perspective view of the lighted incense burner according to an embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2 illustrates an elevation cross sectional view of the lighted incense burner according to an embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0007] The following detailed description represents the best currently contemplated modes for carrying out the invention. The description is not to be taken in a limiting sense, but is made merely for the purpose of illustrating the general principles of the invention.

[0008] Referring to Figures 1 and 2, a lighted incense burner 50 may have an incense burning member 10 disposed in a base member 20 that may have a light member 30. While incense may be used to describe an embodiment, other aromatic material that may be suspended and burned in accordance with the

disclosure may be used to create smoke or an aroma. The incense housing member 10 may be transparent, translucent, opaque or have other light transmission characteristics depending on the desired lighting effect.

[0009] The incense housing member 10 may be made from any suitable material allowing burning of an incense element 14 disposed therein, for example, glass, plastic, crystal, metal and the like. While a tubular incense housing member 10 may be described as an embodiment, other shapes may be used that may have horizontal cross sectional forms such as star, moon or other geometric shapes. Also, the base member 20 may have other shapes than generally circular. The size of the incense housing member 10 may be varied to facilitate a slow or fast combustion of the incense element 14. A vent hole (not shown) may also be formed in the wall of the incense housing member 10 to facilitate the combustion of the incense element 14.

[0010] The incense housing member 10 may be of tubular construction having a wall 15 with a closed bottom 16 and an open top 18 to form a chamber 11. An incense element 14 may be disposed in the chamber 11 either partially or wholly and may be retained by an incense holder 12.

[0011] The base member 20 may have a upper cavity 28 formed therein with a step portion 24 for receiving the incense housing member 10 to be positioned above a light member 30. The lower cavity 22 may have a mounting element 26 with a light source 32 positioned to direct light upwardly into the incense housing member 10. The projected light may illuminate the wall 15 that may be visible if the incense housing member 10 may not be opaque. The projected light may also exit the top 18 of the incense housing member 10 and may illuminate smoke that may be created by the burning of the incense element 14 both within and above the chamber 11. There may be a power source 34, a battery or power cord connected to a source, and a switch 36 interconnected with the light source 32 to apply electrical power to the light source 32.

[0012] The light source 32 may be a light bulb, light emitting diode or other suitable device that may be positioned on mounting element 26 vertically, at an angle away from vertical, or on a wall of lower cavity 22. There may be multiple

light sources 32 and the light source 32 may be a color emitting light, such as, red, blue and the like.

[0013] The base member 20 may be shaped to support the incense housing member 10 and the light member 30 and may be fabricated of wood, plastic, crystal, glass, metal and the like. Decorative shape base members 20 may also be used.

[0014] The incense holder 12 may be a two pronged clip or other suitable shape to engage a portion of the incense element 14 to be retained in the chamber 11.

[0015] While the invention has been particularly shown and described with respect to the illustrated embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that the foregoing and other changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.